

## ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

5           A drive unit for driving at least two axles of an all-wheel drive vehicle,  
having a housing (3), an input gear (5) meshing with an output gear (4) of a  
gear-shift transmission (2), a center differential (6) coaxially disposed relative to  
the input gear (5) and one of the axles. To yield maximum rigidity at minimum  
structural dimensions the input gear (5) is rigidly mounted to a cage (20) of the  
10 center differential (6), the cage (20) being journalled at one end in a first tapered  
roller bearing (35) seated in the housing (3). A further output member (28) of the  
center differential (6) extends from the opposite end of the cage (20) and is  
rigidly connected to an output gear (10; 40) journalled in a second tapered roller  
bearing (36) seated in the housing (3) and provided with a third tapered roller  
15 bearing (37) wherein the other end of the cage (20) is journalled.